

the major proponents of a given theory. Table 1.1 shows how such multilevel approaches may focus on different aspects of understanding nursing theories.

This book does not attempt to analyze nursing theories from all of these analytical schemas, but is mainly oriented to the study of nursing theories from the analysis of foundational perspectives. The authors’ aim is to provide a review and analysis of nursing theories that can add to the comprehension of theoretical work in nursing using an approach that is different from those adopted by major authors who focus on analyzing theories for content and logical structure. Our approach is to examine nursing theories from the analysis of conceptual and philosophical perspectives that undergird nursing theories. The themes identified as the major conceptual and philosophical orientations are examined for their meaning, ontological orientations, and epistemological implications. Theories relevant to each of the themes are then examined and contrasted in the context of the theme’s definitional, ontological, and epistemological discussions. Hence, the reviews are oriented to identifying and examining the foundations on which the theories are developed. This level of studying theories will provide the reader with an appreciation of theories’ perspectives and

TABLE 1.1 Multifaceted Approach to Theoretical Comprehension

Types of Analysis	Aspects of Theory Comprehension
Thorough Reading	Understanding the language and structure of theory
Analysis of Contents for Metaparadigm Orientation	Understanding the scope of theory
Analysis of Theory Structure	Understanding the theoretical precision and logic-in-use in terms of concepts and theoretical statements
Analysis of Coherence Among Components	Understanding the coherence and organization among theoretical components
Analysis of Foundational Perspectives	Understanding the conceptual and philosophical orientations regarding the images of humans and nursing, conceptualization of key phenomena, and theoretical explanation
Analysis of Theory Progression	Understanding the theory development process
Study of Theorist/Major Proponents	Understanding the theorist’s perspectives and visions regarding theory development